

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3934

PHONE (202) 371-2600 • FACSIMILE (202) 371-2540 • www.skgf.com

ROBERT GREENE STERNE  
EDWARD J. KESSLER  
JORGE A. GOLDSTEIN  
SAMUEL L. FOX  
DAVID K.S. CORNWELL  
ROBERT W. ESMOND  
TRACY-GENE G. DURKIN  
MICHELE A. CIMBALA  
MICHAEL B. RAY  
ROBERT E. SOKOHL  
ERIC K. STEFFE  
MICHAEL Q. LEE

STEVEN R. LUDWIG  
JOHN M. COVERT\*  
LINDA E. ALCORN  
ROBERT C. MILLONIG  
MICHAEL V. MESSINGER  
JUDITH U. KIM  
TIMOTHY J. SHEA, JR.  
DONALD R. MCPHAIL  
PATRICK E. GARRETT  
STEPHEN G. WHITESIDE  
JEFFREY T. HELVEY\*  
HEIDI L. KRAUS

JEFFREY R. KURIN  
RAYMOND MILLIEN  
PATRICK D. O'BRIEN  
LAWRENCE B. BUGAISKY  
CRYSTAL D. SAYLES  
EDWARD W. YEE  
ALBERT L. FERRO\*  
DONALD R. BANOWIT  
PETER A. JACKMAN  
MOLLY A. MCCALL  
TERESA U. MEDLER  
JEFFREY S. WEAVER

KRISTIN K. VIDOVICH  
KENDRICK P. PATTERSON  
DONALD J. FEATHERSTONE  
GRANT E. REED  
VINCENT L. CAPUANO  
JOHN A. HARROUN\*  
ALBERT J. FASULO II\*  
W. BRIAN EDGE\*  
ELDORA ELLISON FLOYD\*  
W. RUSSELL SWINDELL  
THOMAS C. FIALA

KAREN R. MARKOWICZ  
SUZANNE E. ZISKA\*\*  
BRIAN J. DEL BUONO\*\*  
ANDREA J. KAMAGE\*\*  
NANCY J. LEITH\*\*  
ELIZABETH J. HAANES\*\*  
MARK P. TERRY\*\*  
TARJA H. NAUKKARINEN\*\*

\*BAR OTHER THAN D.C.  
\*\*REGISTERED PATENT AGENTS

December 21, 2000

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:  
(202) 371-2670

INTERNET ADDRESS:  
LALCORN@SKGF.COM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Box Patent Application**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
(Divisional of U.S. Appl. No. 09/489,679; Filed: January 24, 2000)  
Appl. No. To be Assigned; Filed: Herewith  
For: **Apparatus and Method for Drying Solutions Containing  
Macromolecules**  
Inventors: Ally *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0942.4060002/LEA/DTJ

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S.  
Patent and Trademark Office:

1. PTO Utility Patent Application Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/05);
2. Application Data Sheet;
3. U.S. Utility Patent Application entitled:

**Apparatus and Method for Drying Solutions Containing Macromolecules**

and naming as inventors:

Abdul H. Ally  
Brent W. Henry  
Michael W. Schuette

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
December 21, 2000  
Page 2

the application consisting of:

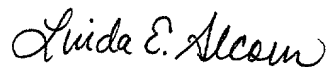
- a. A specification containing:
  - (i) 25 pages of description prior to the claims;
  - (ii) 7 pages of claims (49 claims);
  - (iii) a one (1) page abstract;
- b. 27 sheets of drawings: (Figures 1, 2, 3A-3B, 4-16, 17A-17B, 18-26);
4. A copy of the executed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application, as originally filed in U.S. Appl. No. 09/005,477;
5. Authorization to Treat a Reply As Incorporating An Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) (in duplicate);
6. A Preliminary Amendment; and
7. Two (2) return postcards.

It is respectfully requested that, of the two attached postcards, one be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier, and the other, prepaid postcard, be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible.

This patent application is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) without filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Linda E. Alcorn  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 39,588

LEA:DTJ:mal

Enclosures

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**UTILITY  
PATENT APPLICATION  
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	0942.4060002/LEA/DTJ
First Inventor	Abdul H. Ally
Title	Apparatus and Method for Drying Solutions Comprising Macromolecules
Express Mail Label No.	

JC915 U.S. PTO  
09/14/00  
12/21/00**APPLICATION ELEMENTS**

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents

**ADDRESS TO:**Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 20231

1. ☐ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)  
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☐ Applicant claims small entity status.  
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 33]  
(preferred arrangement set forth below)  
- Descriptive title of the Invention  
- Cross Reference to Related Applications  
- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D  
- Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix  
- Background of the Invention  
- Brief Summary of the Invention  
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)  
- Detailed Description  
- Claim(s)  
- Abstract of the Disclosure
4. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 27]
5. ☒ Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]  
a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)  
b. ☒ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))  
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)  
i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. ☒ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76.
7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)  
a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)  
b. Specification Sequence Listing on:  
i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or  
ii. ☐ paper  
c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

**ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS**

9. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney  
(when there is an assignee)
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
13. ☒ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ Request and Certification under 35 U.S.C. 122 (b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.
17. ☒ Other: Authorization under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3)

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

☐ Continuation ☒ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-Part (CIP) of prior application No: 09/489,679  
Prior application information: Examiner Gravini, S. Group/Art Unit: 3749


For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

**18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

or ☒ Correspondence address below

NAME	STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.				
	Attorneys at Law				
ADDRESS	Suite 600, 1100 New York Avenue, N.W.				
CITY	Washington	STATE	DC	ZIP CODE	20005-3934
COUNTRY	USA	TELEPHONE	(202) 371-2600	FAX	(202) 371-2540

NAME (Print/Type)	Linda E. Alcorn	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	39,588
SIGNATURE		Date	December 21, 2000

Burden Hour Statement: this form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.